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FEATHERSTONE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



1951

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F E A T H E R S T O N E  
U R B A N   D I S T R I C T   C O U N C I L

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FEATHERSTONE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL - 1951

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Chairman: Cr. T. Morgan

Vice Chairman: Cr. W. Griffiths

Cr. A. Booth

Cr. A. Bingley

Cr. H. Darbyshire

Cr. A. Evans

Cr. M.L. Fox

Cr. J. Harper

Cr. J. Parker

Cr. E. Rowley C.C.

Cr. J. Williams

Cr. H. Woodcock.

Clerk to the Council:

H. Tattersall, A.L.A.A., F.R.Econ.C.

Medical Officer of Health:

John F. Fraser, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

John Hilsley, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

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Medical Officer's Section,  
Health Department,  
9, Horsefair,  
Pontefract.

To The Chairman and Members of the Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

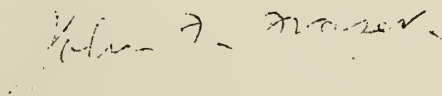
I have the honour to present for your information and consideration a Report on the Health and Health Services of Featherstone during the year 1951.

The Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District, Housing and the Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies, is complementary to this Report.

For your information certain details of the personal health services administered by the County Council are included.

I am Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.



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P A R T   O N E

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District: 4,425 acres

Population, mid-year, Registrar-General's estimate: 13,840

Number of inhabited houses at end of 1951: 3,903

Rateable Value at end of : 1951 - £54,631. 1950 - £54,248

Product of penny rate: 1951 - £207/14/3d. 1950 - £208/15/1d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The figures in brackets are the corresponding ones for 1950

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	147 (138)	111 (113)	258 (251)
Illegitimate	5 (5)	2 (6)	7 (11)
Total	152 (143)	113 (119)	265 (262)

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population: 19.14 (19.05)

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	7 (3)	5 (5)	12 (8)
Illegitimate	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
Total	8 (3)	5 (5)	13 (8)

Rate per 1,000 live and still births: 46.76 (29.6)

Rate per 1,000 estimated population: .94 (.58)

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
All Age Groups	52 (72)	47 (61)	99 (133)

<u>Deaths - Infants under one year.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	2 (12)	- (-)	2 (12)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

<u>Deaths - Infants under four weeks.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	2 (7)	- (-)	2 (7)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

Maternal Deaths. NIL (NIL)

Death Rates.

General rate per 1,000 population	7.15 (9.67)
All infants per 1,000 live births	7.58 (45.80)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	7.75 (47.80)
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil ( Nil )
Maternal deaths per 1,000 live and still births	Nil ( Nil )



The principal causes of death are set out in the following Table.

TABLE I.

Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis Respiratory	1	3	4
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm stomach	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm breast	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	4	8
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	4	10
Coronary disease, angina	4	3	7
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart disease	13	19	32
Other circulatory disease	2	2	4
Pneumonia	-	2	2
Bronchitis	5	2	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	-	2
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	3	1	4
Suicide	1	-	1
	52	47	99

The number of deaths registered during the year was 99, 34 less than last year. This yields a death rate of 7.15 per 1,000 of the estimated population as against a figure of 9.67 for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales is 12.5

The principal causes of death as compared with 1950, 1949, 1948 and 1947 are as follows:-

	<u>1951.</u>	<u>1950.</u>	<u>1949.</u>	<u>1948.</u>	<u>1947.</u>
Heart Disease	41	46	41	39	31
Cancer	12	16	25	25	21
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	10	19	18	16	16
Bronchitis	7	7	14	11	12
Tuberculosis (all forms)	6	3	8	7	6

#### INFANT MORTALITY.

The infant mortality rate for 1951 is 7.58 compared with 29.6 which is the figure for England and Wales.

The following Table gives causes of infant deaths during 1951, classified into age groups and months of incidence.



TABLE II.

Cause of Death.	Age Groups								All ages under 1 yr		
	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks	2-3 wks	3-4 wks	1-3 mth	3-6 mth	6-9 mth	9-12 mths	M	F	Tot
Jaundice	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Inattention at Birth	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2

The following Table gives a general survey of infant deaths throughout the year.

TABLE III.

Cause of Death.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Inattention at Birth	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

Total - 2.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR PREVIOUS  
SEVEN YEARS AS COMPARED WITH 1951.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Birth Rate.</u>	<u>Death Rate.</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate.</u>
1944	22.9	10.6	35
1945	21.8	11.3	40
1946	21.4	10.1	65
1947	25.3	11.1	37
1948	22.4	10.8	37
1949	20.5	11.6	36
1950	19.0	9.7	46
1951	19.1	7.1	7



- 4 -  
TABLE IV.

COMPARISON OF FEATHERSTONE VITAL STATISTICS WITH OTHER WEST RIDING URBAN DISTRICTS; THE WEST RIDING ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY, AND ENGLAND AND WALES.

	Featherstone Urban District	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County	England & Wales (provisional figures).
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population)	19.1	15.6	15.8	15.5
DEATH RATE (per 1,000 estimated population) All Causes	7.2	13.5	12.7	12.5
Infective & Para. Dis. excl. Tub. but incl. Syph and other V.D.	0.14	0.11	0.10	*
Tuberculosis Respiratory	0.29	0.24	0.24	0.28
Tuberculosis Other	0.14	0.04	0.04	0.04
Tuberculosis All Forms	0.43	0.28	0.28	0.32
Cancer	0.94	0.89	1.80	1.96
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	0.72	1.86	1.72	*
Heart and Circulatory	3.25	5.10	4.72	*
Respiratory Diseases	0.79	1.90	1.81	*
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 live and still births)	Nil	0.81	0.93	0.79
Infant Mortality	7.5	30.8	31.8	29.6
Still Births (per 1,000 live and still births)	47	26	26	23

\* figures not available



P A R T   T W O.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following Table shows the prevalence of infectious diseases throughout the year.

TABLE   V.

Disease	Jan/ Mar	Apl/ Jun	Jul/ Sep	Oct/ Dec	Total	Deaths	No. of cases admitted to hospital.
Scarlet Fever	6	2	2	8	18	-	16
Whooping Cough	5	3	-	-	8	-	-
Measles	208	317	4	2	531	-	-
Diphtheria	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pneumonia	15	4	2	6	27	2	-
Dysentery	3	-	-	-	3	-	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-	2	2	-	1
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	1	2	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
	239	327	8	19	593	2	20

Measles follows a two yearly cycle and this has been a "high measles" year.

The 16 cases of Scarlet Fever compare favourably with the 28 notified last year, and the 62 notified the previous year.

Immunisation.

186 children under the age of five years and 125 over the age of five years received a full course of primary immunisation against diphtheria. In addition 21 children received a reinforcing injection.

A special immunisation session was held at Albert Street Clinic, Featherstone, on the first Thursday of each month; and the annual comb-out of the schools was carried out by Dr. Duncan as in former years.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table summarises particulars contained in the Register of Tuberculous persons.



TABLE VI

No. of Cases in Register:	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
At commencement of 1951	52	26	15	19	112
Notified for first time during 1951	4	7	1	6	18
Removed during 1951	5	5	2	2	14
At the end of 1951	51	28	14	23	116

The reasons for removal of cases from the Register are given in the following Table.

TABLE VII

Entries relating to:-	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Persons who have died	2	2	1	1	6
Who have recovered	1	1	-	1	3
Revision of diagnosis	-	2	-	-	2
Persons who have ceased to reside in the district.	2	-	1	-	3
	5	5	2	2	14

In the following Table new cases and mortality are classified.

TABLE VIII

Age Groups	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	1
5 and under 15	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-
15 and under 25	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
25 and under 35	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 and under 45	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 and under 55	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
55 and under 65	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
65 and over	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	4	7	1	6	2	2	1	1



P A R T   T H R E E.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics were held throughout the year as follows.

Child Welfare Clinic.

Albert Street Clinic, Featherstone.    Wednesday at 1.30 p.m.

Average attendance 50 babies.

Toddlers Clinic.

Albert Street Clinic, Featherstone.    Second and fourth

Thursday in the month at 1.30 p.m.    Average attendance

27 toddlers.

Child Welfare Clinic.

The Methodist Chapel, Streethouse.

Monday at 1.30 p.m.    Average attendance 23 babies.

Child Welfare Clinic.

Wesleyan Chapel, Loscoe Grove.

Thursday at 1.30 p.m.    Average attendance 13 babies.

Ultra violet ray treatment was given where necessary at the Child Welfare Clinic, Pontefract.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

These were held weekly on a Tuesday afternoon at the Albert Street Clinic, Featherstone, an average of 36 expectant mothers attending each session. An average of 2 mothers attended for post-natal examination.

The following proprietary preparations were available at cost price (free in necessitous cases) to all women attending the Clinics.

Ostermilk (Nos. 1 and 2)	Scotts Twin Pack
Trufood	Virol
Cow and Gate	Farex
Lactagol	Minadex
Glucose	Horlicks
Colact	Scotts M.O.F.

The following were distributed free of charge:-

Lactation Tablets  
I.C.D. Tablets  
Ferrous Sulphate Tablets  
Viteolin Tablets  
Adexolin.

The following analysis of births occurring during 1951, adjusted by transferred notifications, indicates how the various maternity services and institutions were used.



No. of births occurring in the district during the year.

	<u>L.</u>	<u>S.B.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1. Domiciliary Cases	139	3	142
2. Inward Transfers	128	10	138
3. Outward Transfers	2	-	2
	<u>265</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>278</u>

Inward Transfers.

County General Hospital Wakefield	13
Walton Hall Maternity Home, Wakefield	60
Manygates Maternity Hospital, Wakefield	50
Leeds Maternity Hospital	7
Northgate Lodge Hospital, Pontefract.	6
Castleford Maternity Home	1
Glenroyd Maternity Hospital, Blackpool	1
	<u>138</u>

For domiciliary confinements the full establishment of staff has operated during the year, comprising three midwives, assisted where necessary by a relief midwife operating from Pontefract. All have cars.

Gas and air analgesia was freely used and appreciated by the patients, as was the analgesic drug pethidine which has proved a most useful weapon in the fight for painless childbirth.

Care of the Premature Infant.

Sixteen premature infants were notified during the year. In each case a special investigation was made and help given as required. In hospital cases there was close liaison between hospitals and authorities.

P A R T F O U R

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES.

Routine school medical inspections were carried out in the Featherstone schools during the year.

A clinic session for consultation with the School Medical Officer was held on the first and third Monday in the month at which parents could attend. These clinics are of special value in dealing with the debilitated child. The average attendance for this session was 26.

Cases requiring consultation with a specialist, that is to say orthopaedic cases, ear, nose and throat cases, and eye cases were referred to the appropriate clinics at Pontefract and dealt with there.

Minor Ailment Clinics, in the charge of the school nurse, were held daily for one hour. An average of 6 children per day attended these sessions.

Mrs. N. Hepworth, Speech Therapist, held regular Speech Clinics at Featherstone.



## P A R T F I V E

### HOME NURSING.

The Home Nursing Service has been operated throughout the year by two nurses and a relief nurse. Over 200 cases have been nursed and 7,806 visits made.

## P A R T S I X

### CARE AND AFTER-CARE.

Much good work has been done under this heading during the year. A Health Visitor from the Featherstone area commenced attending at the Ackton Hospital and a Health Visitor from Pontefract has visited the Pontefract General Infirmary daily. They have been able on the one hand to furnish background histories of patients where such information was of importance, and on the other hand to give early information of the discharge of patients from hospital whom the personal health services might assist.

#### Home Helps.

The demand for this service has been maintained.

## P A R T S E V E N

### MENTAL HEALTH.

Mental health is a responsibility of a Sub-Committee of the County Council. Work under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890 and 1930, has been undertaken by a Duly Authorised Officer living in Pontefract. He is Mr. R.S.H. Battye, of 27 Grove Lea Crescent, Pontefract, telephone number Pontefract 813.

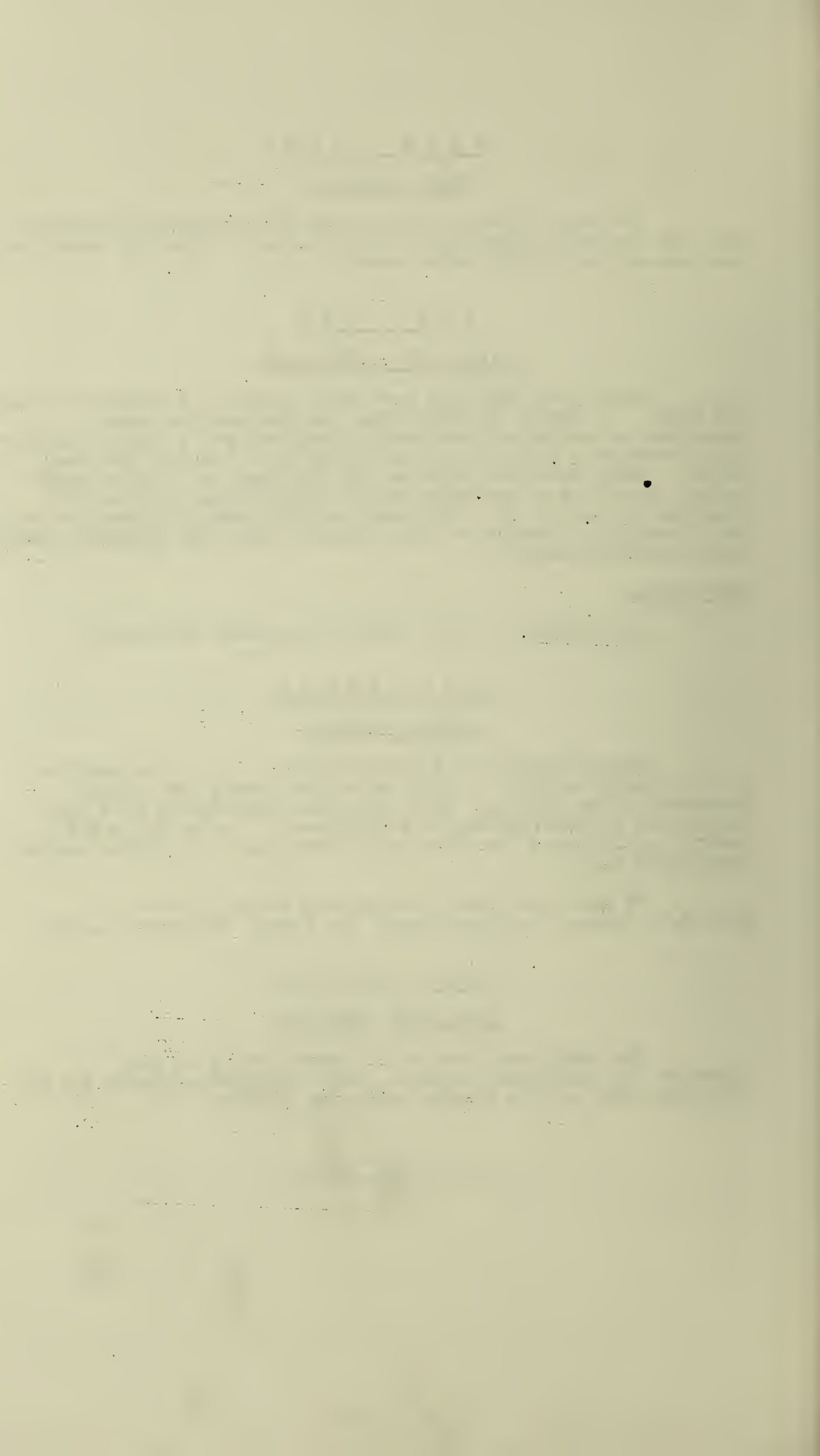
We have one Mental Deficiency Social Worker, Miss E.T. Simons, for work under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

## P A R T E I G H T.

### AMBULANCE SERVICES.

The Ambulance Service in Featherstone is now operated by the County Council, and its administration is the responsibility of the County Ambulance Officer.

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URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF

FEATHERSTONE

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1951.  
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To the Chairman and Members of the Council:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1951, the Twenty-Fifth I have had the honour of placing before you.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

WATER SUPPLY: The water supply, which is purchased in bulk from Wakefield Corporation Waterworks and distributed via 2 storage reservoirs has been satisfactory in quality throughout the year. The supply has been constant, but the pressure in the higher parts of the district is steadily deteriorating. The new water tower is now approaching completion and this should provide adequate pressure to all parts of the district.

All the houses in your area are connected to the public main.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AND DRAINAGE

During the year, 14 privy closets were converted to water closets and 2 additional water closets provided for old property. 70 water closets were provided for new property.

At the end of the year there were:-

3960 Water Closets

31 Waste Water Closets

26 Pail Closets

126 Privy Closets



All the built-up areas of the district are sewered with the exception of the Wood Lane area where the houses are drained to cesspools, and cesspools are used at several isolated houses throughout the district. The total number of cesspools in use is 61 and these are regularly emptied by means of a mechanical cesspool emptier.

The two sewage works have given satisfactory service during the year.

Scavenging is done by direct labour and has been satisfactorily carried out during the year.

The estimated weight of refuse collected was 9,173 tons. Of this quantity 9,101 tons were disposed of by tipping and 72 tons recovered as salvage.

Salvage of materials of further use and for which an economic market could be found was carried out during the year, and the following materials were salvaged and sold:-

Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.		£.	s.	d.
44.	6.	2.	22.	Waste Paper	616.	2.	10.
19.	9.	0.	0.	Kitchen Waste	56.	15.	0.
5.	15.	0.	0.	Heavy Scrap	20.	14.	0.
2.	8.	0.	0.	Light Scrap	3.	8.	0.
	5.	2.	0.	Rags	6.	17.	6.
	1.	0.	0.	Aluminium	3.	5.	0.
			5.	Brass		5.	0.
72.	5.	0.	27.		£ 707.	7.	4.

NUISANCES: 361 Nuisances were discovered, the majority of which were abated as the result of informal action.

It was found necessary to serve Statutory Notices in 92 cases, of these, 51 were abated without recourse to legal action, and 1 carried out in default by Council workmen.

REGULATED TRADES: Only one "offensive trade" is established in the district, that of tripe boiler. This was operated during the year without nuisance.

FACTORIES: The term Factory includes premises large and small where articles are made, altered or repaired for purpose of gain. There are 36 such premises on the Register, and 82 inspections were made of these premises during the year.

RODENT CONTROL: During the year 206 premises were baited (prebait and poison) against rats. These were mostly small infestations, but included several allotments. 524 dead rats and 29 dead mice were picked up, which indicated that a large number of rats were killed.

The Council's own premises, sewage works and refuse tip were treated at 3 monthly intervals. A sewer test was carried out in September.



HOUSING: The demand for houses shows no sign of abating, and at the time of writing this report we have a waiting list of 849.

During the year under review 66 houses and bungalows were completed by the Local Authority, and 6 houses and bungalows by private enterprise.

The number of post war houses built is as follows:-

Year	No of houses erected		
	By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	Total
1946	42	-	42
1947	84	4	88
1948	114	-	114
1949	154	-	154
1950	12	2	14
1951	66	6	72
Totals	472	12	484

During the year 148 houses were dealt with under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936. Of these, 114 were repaired as a result of informal action and Statutory Notices were served in respect of 64; in one of these cases work was carried out in default.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD. By the centralisation of Slaughtering by the Ministry of Food, the slaughter of animals for food in your area is confined to pigs slaughtered for private pig keepers, but considerable activity is called for in the inspection of "other foods". During the year the following articles were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

Tinned and Untinned Meat	437 lbs
Tomatoes	246 tins
Figs	23 lbs
Candied Peel	52 lbs
Cheese	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs
Raspberries	59 tins
Baked Beans	31 tins
Milk	35 tins
Apples	27 tins
Soup	21 tins



Sieved Apples	11 tins
Butter Beans	8 tins
Pears	6 tins
Pineapple	5 tins
Rhubarb	4 tins
Beetroot	4 tins
Peas	5 tins
Oranges	3 tins
Salmon	3 tins
Tomato Juice	2 tins
Tinned Rabbit	2 tins
Greengages	2 tins
Spaghetti	2 tins
Strawberries	2 tins
Figs	1 tin
Apple Puree	1 tin
Fish Paste	1 jar
Loganberries	1 tin
Carrots	1 tin
Mixed Vegetables	1 tin
Grapes	1 tin
Currents	30 lbs
Shredded Wheat	7 pkts.
Plums	5 tins
Fish Cakes	6 doz.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949: The following licences have been issued during the year:-

Dealers	Tuberculin Tested	14
Supplementary	Tuberculin Tested	5
Dealers	Pasteurised	15
Supplementary	Pasteurised	6
Dealers	Sterilised	19
Supplementary	Sterilised	1

The greater proportion of milk sold in the district is bottled.



THE DEPARTMENT: During the year the Additional Sanitary Inspector Mr. J.F. Ellison left to take up a position with the Darlington Rural District Council. The position was filled by the appointment of a Junior Assistant as a trainee.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. HILLSLEY

Chief Sanitary Inspector.





